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Top: From the Clubhouse lawn, mountain views are breathtaking. Bottom: Boats await Trillium members ready to take a spin on the lake.

By Leslie Johnston

Many Southerners now call North Carolina's mountains home, thanks to developers who are building communities that complement the region's beauty and tranquility. One of the best is Trillium, a family-centered place with a breathtaking list of amenities.

Jim Jamison, a Charlotte, N.C. leadership development consultant and executive coach, knew exactly what he didn't want in a second home.

Although he loves golf, the Irish-born Jamison finds the heat and humidity of the Southeastern coast stifling. So, when he and his wife, Barbara, began looking for their second home, they knew it would be in the mountains, not the coast. The Jamisons did their homework, researching and visiting second home communities all along the North Carolina stretch of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

"We wanted a place that had a strong sense of community," Jamison says, "and one that would welcome us and our two young sons."

The Jamisons found what they were looking for the first summer when they rented a home at Trillium, a 700-acre development of the Trillium Land Company, located above Lake Glenville and less than four miles from the intersection of State Highway 107 and U.S. 64 in Cashiers, N.C.

MEANT FOR ALL AGES

Trillium was one of the first upscale, second-home developments in this area to welcome families. In fact, families are



Rustic meets elegance at Trillium's Adirondack-style Clubhouse, designed by Stephen Fuller. Here, residents can enjoy views of the mountains, lake, pool and green lawn.

part of the property's advertising tag line: "Where Families Belong."

So, while families do find a warm welcome at Trillium, couples without children and empty nesters also find hospitality.

"This is a place for people who enjoy an active lifestyle," Jamison says, "regardless of their family status."

While property owners range in age from those in their 20s to those in their 70s, the majority are in their 30s, 40s and 50s. This is a second-home, private "links and lake community" where homeowners and property owners are referred to as members.

And although the Cashiers-Highlands area has traditionally had a distinct "season" from April to October, more and more Trillium members are electing to stay longer and to return for the major winter holidays, says Trillium's marketing director, Melissa Rogers. Holiday activities such as Thanksgiving Weekend and New Year's

Eve are beginning to draw large numbers of families and rave reviews.

PICKING ONE'S FAVORITE THINGS

The amenities at Trillium fill a long list, and are equally balanced in the rhythm of life here. While it has a first-class golf course, it is not exclusively a golf community. While it is a lake community, life does not revolve exclusively around the lake. While it offers fishing, tennis, horseback riding and some of the best hiking in the eastern United States, neither does the community define itself by those sports and activities. Trillium lets people just be people, doing what they love, and in doing so represents a return to the classic summers most baby boomers remember.

ADDING UP THE ASSETS

Location, natural beauty and climate all play a part in Trillium's popularity. At ap-

proximately 3,500 feet, spring comes early enough to enjoy before the arrival of summer, thus allowing members to savor four distinct seasons.

"We looked at some communities that were higher in elevation," Barbara recalls, "but when we were visiting them in May, the trees were just beginning to bud out."

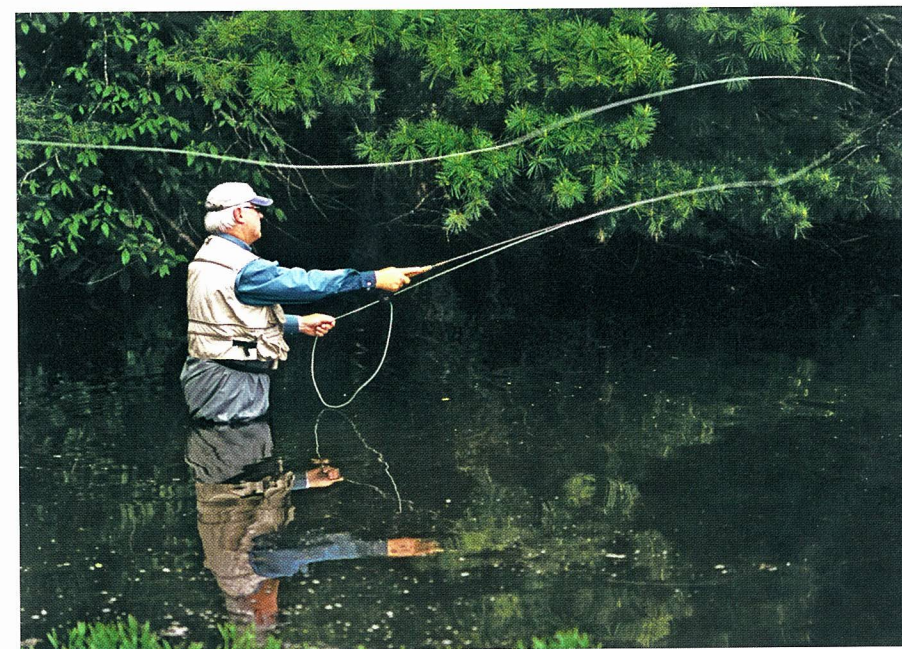
In addition, the combination of traditional, genteel country club elegance tempered by rustic simplicity and the emphasis on families and community creates a winning combination.

STYLES FOR MANY TASTES

A further element of the Trillium charm is the fact that it is made up of several different – and distinct – yet complementary neighborhoods. While there is some architectural variation – just enough to add interest – a number of common architectural features can be found throughout the property: laurel porch railings; rough sawn siding, especially poplar bark; stacked stone fireplaces, both inside and outside on porches, and exposed interior beams. A number of architects have created the designs, which must be approved by the architectural review committee, but Trillium Construction Company is the builder.

A TOUR OF TRILLIUM

Trillium Village was the first Trillium neighborhood constructed.



Enjoy fly fishing just 10 minutes from Trillium at Tuckaseegee River, rated one of the top 100 fly fishing rivers in the country.



After a day on the lake, Trillium members and their guests enjoy a unique cocktail party with food served buffet-style from a canoe.

It has an English-style Village on the Green, where arts and crafts-style homes called Lodges on the Green encircle the hilltop green and spill down the hillside. Homes have both front and back porches and 1,700-square-foot floorplans carried out with natural wood floors, stone fireplaces, custom wood cabinetry, solid surface counters, large closets and garden tubs. Exterior colors have been carefully selected to blend with cedar shake siding, stacked stone and vibrant landscaping that gives a definite feel of an English country town. Curving down toward the shores of Lake Glenville are larger, more rustic Adirondack and Craftsman homes, called

Hillside Cottages, which, due to the expansive lake below, have an unmistakable nautical appearance and feel.

Across North Norton Road lies Trillium Links, the heart of the community's golf and tennis program, which is made up of rustic yet elegant Adirondack-style homes. Links Villas – two and three bedroom attached homes – and Links Lodges, freestanding three-bedroom, three-and-a-half bath homes, overlook the greens and fairways of the golf course and are located near the tennis courts and pool.

The Villas and Lodges are constructed of natural cedar shake siding, traditional board and batten and feathered-edge siding. Balsam View is the Links' newest neighborhood and is still under construction. There are six villa/condominium buildings, all with wraparound porches and magnificent lake views from the back porches.

"With the exception of Balsam View, we are in the final stages of development of the Links neighborhoods," Rogers says.

NEW AND DIFFERENT

Less than a mile down North Norton lies the Arbors, the newest of Trillium's three neighborhood groupings. Within the Arbors, there are smaller, more intimate neighborhoods. Some of the community's largest and most sophisticated homes are located in Garden Gate, with an architectural style that is a pleasing blend of European country and Adirondack.

Each Garden Gate home has a charming backyard cottage, which can become a potting shed, artist's studio, child's play-

house, or simply a place for quiet time.

"These are left unfinished on the interior," Rogers says, "so that homeowners can use them as they like."

The new Signal Ridge Lodges, free-standing rustic Adirondack homes surrounded by mountain hardwoods, offer incredible golf course views of the 14th fairway.

"One of the nice things about these homes," Rogers says, "is that while they have three bedrooms and three and a half baths, they offer living quarters with a kitchenette/wet bar on the lower level that are perfect as separate living quarters for teens or guests." Signal Ridge Lodges also come with a golf cart included in the purchase price of a home.

Finally, there is Turkey Knob Hollow, also located in the Arbors. Dark poplar bark shingles, selected for an aged look, make the homes almost disappear into the wooded landscape. Four floorplans are available, and interior amenities include dark wood doors and molding and clawfoot tubs. The neighborhood feel is enhanced by the fire pit, which makes a natural gathering place for families and neighbors. Turkey Knob has excellent wooded views and wintertime lake views.

SOCIAL AND RECREATIONAL LIFE

Within the Arbors is a variety of golf known at Trillium as "garden golf" in the woodsy Garden Gate area that is a seamless part of the landscape and the lifestyle of the neighborhood.

"It's a hike, chip and putt course," Rogers explains. The par three course is for every member of the family, regardless of skill level, and with no concerns about tee times and scorecards. Each hole is different and has its own landscaping and personality that comes from small waterfalls, ponds, rock gardens and stone steps. The setting of each hole is both peaceful and meditative.

When the weekend arrives, there are evening get-togethers called "Street Sweeps" held every Friday night during the season with complimentary cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. In 2007, the Trillium staff hosted a "Smell the Flowers and Taste the Wine" progressive dinner; a first-time dinner theatre; a dinner cruise and



The living area at the Romano family home emits a warm, cozy feeling. Like other homes at Trillium, this house features exposed interior beams and a stone fireplace.

dance; and three Fall Celebration Weekends in October for, after all, there may be no more beautiful time in the mountains than leaf season. In addition, members have easy access to all cultural, dining and shopping resources for which Cashiers and Highlands have long been known.

CHANGING AND IMPROVING

In the long run, Trillium is a development that is constantly thinking of ways to better serve its property owners.

In 2006, the state-of-the-art 25,000-square-foot Apple Orchard Park facility opened in the Arbors. Inside are three clay tennis courts and a fitness center with all Nautilus equipment. These indoor

courts, along with the outdoor courts at the Links, are used for clinics, camps and tournaments throughout the season. And, when it's time to wind down, massage and spa services are also available at Apple Orchard Park.

The Clubhouse, including an outdoor wraparound porch/deck, sits on a magnificent knoll between the first and 18th fairway, with views overlooking the mountains to the south, the lake, the pool and a green lawn that is the site of frequent special events. Trillium Links was designed by professional golfer Morris Hatalsky and has been selected as a four and a half star course by *Golf Digest*. Fairways wind their way up and down the mountain,



Left: Pony rides and other activities were available during a Trillium Labor Day event. Right: Jim and Barbara Jamison (from left) enjoy food and fun by the lake with their friend Katherine LeDoyen.



with many of the holes offering dramatic views. Approaching the eighth hole, the green appears to be suspended on the edge of the mountain, while the 13th features bunkers on the left and a trout stream with a waterfall that curves behind the green.

Jim Jamison, an avid golfer, attests that the course is a challenge to players, and members often comment that no round is ever like any other on this course.

But it is also a course – and a golf program – that welcomes new players with lessons and clinics, regardless of their age.

"Welcomes new golfers" is a good description," says Abbey Bearer, who often accompanies her young sons to their lessons and began her own lessons at the Links in the summer of 2007. "I never feel as if they don't have time for me, or that the staff is more focused on more skilled players."

Although Bethesda, Md. is Abbey and Mike Bearer's primary home, they find themselves spending most of the summer at Trillium, in spite of the distance. Mike, who manages a wealth management firm in Washington, D.C., flies into either Charlotte or Asheville almost every weekend, then drives to Trillium to join his wife and children.

LAKESIDE DINING

The Landings, Trillium's own restaurant, sits lakeside in front of three docks filled with bobbing deck boats, ski boats, kayaks and canoes. It is open for lunch and dinner with indoor and outdoor dining and a postcard-perfect view of the lake. The open-air Lakeside Pavilion, for homeowners' special events and activities, adjoins The Landings.

"There has been a recent change in the dress code for The Landings," Jim Jamison explains, "and I think it's a very good example of how responsive Trillium's management is to the desires of members. Rather than having to put on a coat and tie for dinner, we asked if dress could be a bit more informal, and the change was made. The Landings is a place we enjoy coming after a day on the lake or a day on the golf course to get together with our families and friends, and we wanted to come as we were."

Pasta nights at The Landings are members' favorites.

"You'll see parents at one table and groups of children at other tables," says Barbara Jamison. "Then, you'll usually find the children down by the lake, having fun together." Her children, she says, like many at Trillium, are forming closer

friendships with their neighbors here than in their own hometowns and schools.

"That's not unusual to hear," says Gary Young, Trillium's vice president of sales and marketing. "Most people, because the pace of life is slower here, have time to get to know their neighbors as friends and to enjoy their time together in a way that is almost impossible in the normal hustle and bustle of our lives and jobs." Young himself is an example of a member becoming "hooked" on Trillium. He was a member and then a builder with Trillium Construction Company before joining Trillium Land Company's executive staff.

Situated on the lower level of The Landings is the Adventure Club for the younger set. The club provides children with indoor and outdoor activities, and Camp Trillium, recognized as one of the premier private day camps in the region, is offered twice during the month of July, a time when youngsters kayak, canoe, golf, play tennis, swim, fish, rappel, ride horseback, hike and learn arts and crafts.

A WATER WONDERLAND

One of the community's greatest assets is the 15,000-acre Lake Glenville, the largest and highest lake east of the Mississippi.

"We probably do not publicize it



The Wilderness Cabins provide an opportunity for members to enjoy the serenity and beauty of the wilderness at Chinquapin.

enough, but Trillium has more lakefront than any property in the region,” Rogers says. “Homeowners have access to 26 miles of secluded shoreline.” Boat and gear rentals – fishing, deck boats, run-abouts and pontoon boats, along with canoes, kayaks and water skis – are available and there numerous slips around the lake for members who own boats. Trillium’s 32-foot, 14-passenger cruiser is popular for Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday evening wine-and-cheese cruises and can also be rented for private events, with catering available. For their son’s birthday, the Bearers took the young man on a cruise, which docked on the shore for an old-fashioned cookout.

Anglers can also enjoy Norton Creek, which is stocked and managed by Trillium, and Lake Glenville for reeling in brim, walleye, bass and trout. Children learn the art of fishing on the property’s own pri-

vate, stocked pond. Only 10 minutes away is the Tuckaseegee River, rated one of the top 100 fly fishing rivers in the country.

Trillium also offers some unexpected recreational amenities.

The Fish Shack and the Wilderness Cabins allow members to have family outings and overnight getaways in the great outdoors surrounded only by nature. These cabins are located in the Chinquapin nature preserve and trail system and gives dwellers close-up views of the sight and sound of waterfalls and easy access to hiking and mountain bike trails.

EASY ON VISITORS

Getting to know Trillium is easy. For \$349 per family, a VIP Tour for prospective members includes a three-day, two-night visit in a guest cottage. Along with a complimentary sunset cruise on the lake, a

round of golf on Trillium Links, or dinner for the entire family at The Clubhouse or The Landings, this is a good way to see the property and meet members. For a longer trial Trillium experience, some homes are available for rent through Mountain Vacation Rentals in Cashiers.

“When you see homes at Trillium for sale, that’s a good thing, not a bad thing,” explains Barbara Jamison. “It means, as in our case, that families are building or buying larger homes. As the emotional investment in Trillium increases, the financial investment increases.”

That emotional investment knows no age. Now, for example, when anyone asks Abbey and Mike Bearer’s son where he’s from, he doesn’t hesitate.

His answer: “Cashiers, N.C.”

It’s proof that when people come to Trillium, they are truly coming home. ▲